

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible fluid containment vessel for the transportation of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:

an elongated flexible tubular structure having a circumference comprised of at least two fabric segments having a width which is smaller than a width of the tubular structure, said structure having an inside and an outside;

means for rendering said tubular structure impervious;

said tubular structure having a front end and a rear end;

means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo;

means for joining said segments together;

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said means for joining comprising a first upright member on a surface of ~~one~~ a first segment along an edge thereof; a second upright member on a surface of a second segment along an edge thereof; aligning said first and second upright members, means for sealing a space between said first and second segments and means for securing said first and second upright members together; and

wherein said means for securing said first and second upright members is only affixed either on said inside or on said outside of said structure.

2. (Original) A vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said upright members are generally C-shaped and said means for sealing a space includes a means having respective complimentary shaped portions to receive said C-shape.

3. (Original) A vessel in accordance with claim 2 wherein said means for sealing a space has generally an I-shape.

4. (Currently Amended) A vessel in accordance with claim 3 wherein said ~~clamping~~ means for securing said first and second upright members together comprises a generally U-shaped clamp which maintains said C-shape members in a clamping arrangement with each other and the I-shaped sealing means therebetween.

5. (Currently Amended) A vessel in accordance with claim 2 wherein said upright members are formed from the edge of ~~the~~ said first segment or said second segment.

6. (Currently Amended) A vessel in accordance with claim 2 wherein said upright members are fixedly secured to the edge of ~~the~~ said first segment or said second segment.

7. (Currently Amended) A vessel in accordance with claim 6 wherein said upright members are maintained within an overlap formed from the edge of ~~the~~ said first segment or said second segment.

8. (Currently Amended) A vessel in accordance with claim 7 wherein said overlap is sewn or glued to the surface of ~~the~~ said first segment or said second segment.

9. (Currently Amended) A vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein a length of said first segment or said second segment is equal to that of the circumference of the tubular structure.

10. (Original) A vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means for securing said members together includes stitching said members together.

11. (Original) A vessel in accordance with claim 10 which further includes rope as part of the stitching.

12. (Withdrawn) A method of joining at least two segments of material together comprising the steps of:

providing at least two segments of material each having a surface and an edge;
creating respective upright members at the respective edges of the segment;
aligning said respective upright members and providing a sealing means therebetween;

and

clamping or affixing said respective upright members together.

13. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 12 wherein said segments comprise fabric.

14. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein said upright members are created in generally a C-shape.

15. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 14 wherein said sealing means is generally I-shaped.

16. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 15 wherein said clamping is provided by a generally U-shaped clamp which clamps the C-shaped members to each other with the I-shaped sealing means therebetween.

17. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein said upright members are formed from the edge of the segments.

18. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 13 wherein said upright members are formed separately and fixedly secured to the edge of the segments.

19. (Withdrawn) The method in accordance with claim 18 wherein said upright members are formed out of fabric and are generally C-shaped and are fixedly secured to the edge of the segment.